

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07403 081541Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01

IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /134 W
----- 077444

O R 081527Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2366

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, PINT

SUBJECT: BRANDT'S RESIGNATION: THE NEXT STEPS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT
FOLLOWING BRANDT'S RESIGNATION.

2. MAY 15 -- ELECTION OF FEDERAL PRESIDENT BY THE
BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG. THERE WILL BE TWO CANDIDATES, SCHEEL
FOR SPD/FDP, VON WEIZSAECKER FOR CDU/CSU. SPD/FDP
STRENGTH IS 535, CDU/CSU IS 501 (FURTHER DETAILS ON
BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG BY SEPTTEL). SCHEEL WILL BE ELECTED.

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3. MAY 16 -- ELECTION OF NEW CHANCELLOR BY BUNDESTAG.

SCHMIDT WILL BE SPD/FDP COALITION CANDIDATE AND WILL BE ELECTED (COALITION HAS 271 SEATS, OPPOSITION 225). NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SPD AND FDP ON DIVISION OF MINISTERIAL POSTS CONTINUE INTENSIVELY. MINISTERS OF BRANDT GOVERNMENT CONTINUE ON CARETAKER BASIS UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED. SCHEEL AT THE MOMENT IS ACTING CHANCELLOR AS WELL AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. MAY 17 -- PRESENTATION BY SCHMIDT OF HIS NEW CABINET TO BUNDESTAG. PROBABLY SAME DAY ALSO PRESENTATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY DECLARATION. SCHMIDT MAY PROPOSE THAT DEBATE SUCCEEDING PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY DECLARATION BE HELD THROUGH WEEKEND. OPPOSITION WILL PROBABLY OPPOSE THIS SUGGESTION, AND DEBATE WILL OCCUPY MAY 20-22. FOLLOWING DEBATE, BUNDESTAG WILL BE RECESSED.

5. ABOVE PREDICTIONS OBVIOUSLY ASSUME CONTINUATION OF SPD/FDP COALITION. BOTH PARTIES HAVE EMPHATICALLY STATED THEIR INTENTION TO DO SO.
HILLENBRAND

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